



What we do:

A teen's first job experience is pivotal to the transition into successful employment and adulthood.

Sonoma Valley Teen Services (SVTS) provides teens with:

- work-readiness training,
- on-the-job training,
- job placement services, and
- life-skills coaching.

These skills instill confidence and empower the teens for employment and life success.

SVTS does this in collaboration with schools, local businesses, and other youth-serving agencies.



Impact100 Sonoma
awarded a **\$100,000**
Impact Grant to

Sonoma Valley Teen Services for their *Skills for Life* program (2011) and a Community Grant of \$15,000 to install a walk-in refrigerator to expand The Lovin' Oven program (2014).

Our start:

Sonoma Valley Teen Services is the result of a merger between the Valley of the Moon Teen Center, established 1997 as El Nido Teen Center, and Operation Youth, which began in 1999.

The merger was completed in July of 2010 with the adoption of its new name – Sonoma Valley Teen Services.

A single story:

Esther Oros became involved with SVTS at the age of 14, when she was enrolled in Sonoma Valley High School's AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program. AVID requires students to volunteer in their community to enhance their school transcripts – making them more attractive to colleges and increasing scholarship eligibility. The oldest of eight children, Esther came from a low-income family living near the SVTS Teen Center, so it was a natural place for her to volunteer. At the same time, SVTS had received a \$5,000 grant from US Bank to develop a baking program, and a volunteer named Anea offered to develop the program. Esther's enthusiasm met with Anea's expertise and passion, and the Lovin' Oven was born!

During her four years of high school, Esther put in over 1000 volunteer hours and also earned some income. Her involvement with Lovin' Oven became a passion for her as she recognized the importance of what she was establishing for other teens in her community. Esther's hard work paid off. The Lovin' Oven continues to grow, now employing 35 teens and selling around 300 holiday pies and providing event services at over 35 events each year.

Esther is now a student at Santa Rosa Junior College and is employed full time in the bakery department at Whole Foods. *"My experiences with Sonoma Valley Teen Services opened my horizons for school, for finding employment, and for life. Working in the Lovin' Oven program showed me how much I can accomplish, making me feel that I could do anything I set my heart to."*

Our future:

The SVTS goal is to serve more teens and become the community's "one-stop-shop" for teen employment – providing local businesses with qualified, bilingual, bicultural workers and giving teens significantly better prospects for an economically self-sufficient, productive, and prosperous life.